CLAIMS

1. A method of generating a graphical user interface (GUI), the method comprising:

grouping objects into object groups;

defining an arrangement for a plurality of the object groups, each object group corresponding to at least one relationship in the arrangement;

assigning a graphic pattern that is distinct for each relationship;

generating a graphical structure for each object to be represented in the GUI;

generating a background region for the GUI for one or more related graphical structures associated with an object group, wherein the background region is based on the distinct graphic pattern for the relationship corresponding to the object group; and

generating the GUI, wherein one or more related graphical structures are within the background region.

2. The method in accordance with claim 1, further comprising displaying the GUI.

3. The method in accordance with claim 1, wherein the graphic pattern represents a color to be displayed in a background region.

4. The method in accordance with claim 3, wherein each relationship in the arrangement is assigned a different color.

5. The method in accordance with claim 4, wherein the different color is progressively lighter or darker according to the significance of the relationship in the arrangement.

6. The method in accordance with claim 1, wherein the graphic pattern represents a shading pattern to be displayed in a background region.

7. The method in accordance with claim 6, wherein the shading pattern includes a plurality of lines.

8. The method in accordance with claim 6, wherein the shading pattern includes a color.

9. The method in accordance with claim 1, wherein at least one graphical structure is selectable by a user of the GUI for interaction.

10. The method in accordance with claim 1, wherein the arrangement is a hierarchy and each relationship in the hierarchy is a level in the hierarchy.

11. A graphical user interface (GUI), comprising:

one or more background regions displayed in the GUI, wherein each background region is based on a graphic pattern that is distinct, and the graphic pattern is assigned to a relationship in an arrangement defined for a plurality of object groups, and wherein each object group includes one or more objects; and

one or more graphical structures displayed in the GUI, each graphical structure representing one of the one or more objects and being disposed in at least one of the one or more background regions corresponding to the relationship of the object.

12. The GUI in accordance with claim 11, wherein the graphic pattern represents a color to be displayed in a background region.

13. The GUI in accordance with claim 12, wherein each relationship in the arrangement is assigned a different color.

14. The GUI in accordance with claim 13, wherein the different color is progressively lighter or darker according to the significance of the relationship in the arrangement.

15. The GUI in accordance with claim 11, wherein the graphic pattern represents a shading pattern displayed in a background region.

16. The GUI in accordance with claim 15, wherein the shading pattern includes a plurality of lines.

17. The GUI in accordance with claim 15, wherein the shading pattern includes a color.

18. The GUI in accordance with claim 11, wherein at least one graphical structure is selectable by a user of the GUI for interaction.

19. The GUI in accordance with claim 11, wherein each relationship in the arrangement is a level in a hierarchy and the arrangement is a hierarchy.

20. A method of generating a graphical user interface (GUI), the method comprising:

grouping objects into object groups;

assigning a graphic pattern that is distinct for at least one object group;

generating a graphical structure for each object to be represented in the GUI;

generating a background region for the GUI for one or more related graphical structures associated with an object group, wherein the background region is based on the distinct graphic pattern corresponding to the object group; and

generating the GUI, wherein one or more related graphical structures are within the background region and the GUI is configured to be modified by a user.